

Senate Resolution 454

By: Senators Harper of the 7th, Shafer of the 48th, Cowsert of the 46th, Albers of the 56th, Mullis of the 53rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 18, 2015, as Law Enforcement Appreciation Day at the capitol and
2 commending law enforcement officers in Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Law Enforcement Appreciation Day at the capitol exists to honor this state's
4 highly trained and professional law enforcement officers for putting their lives on the line
5 every day and to commend them for everything they do; and

6 WHEREAS, there are approximately 54,000 Certified Peace Officers in the State of Georgia
7 and approximately 40,000 of these officers are local officers with about 18,000 officers
8 employed by sheriffs' offices as deputy sheriffs and jail officers and 22,000 officers working
9 at police departments; the remaining 14,000 officers in Georgia work for state agencies, such
10 as the Georgia State Patrol, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Department of Corrections,
11 Department of Natural Resources, and others; and

12 WHEREAS, Georgia law enforcement officers are highly trained professionals who must
13 complete the Basic Mandate Law Enforcement Program, an 11-week program consisting of
14 408 hours of rigorous training that includes classroom-based lecture and practical skills
15 building sessions, and other advanced training courses in order to specialize in specific
16 sections, such as criminal investigations, legal development, and organizational development;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the Office of the Sheriff is the oldest law enforcement office known throughout
19 history; sheriffs are duly elected constitutional officers and the only lawfully commissioned
20 chief law enforcement officers in the country; and

21 WHEREAS, sheriffs' offices provide all manner of traditional and specialized law
22 enforcement functions, operate 146 county jails, provide security for all county courthouses,
23 transport over 100,000 offenders and mental health patients annually, and serve over 100,000

24 civil papers annually, and sheriffs and their deputies are the most versatile of all law
25 enforcement officers employed throughout this state; and

26 WHEREAS, Georgia Police Departments provide police services in the State of Georgia that
27 are aimed at achieving more effective and efficient crime control, a reduced fear of crime,
28 an improved quality of life, and an improved police legitimacy through a proactive reliance
29 on community resources that seeks to minimize crime-causing conditions and ensures that
30 all Georgia citizens are served in a professional, ethical, and equitable manner by
31 establishing strong commitments with all segments of society based on trust and positive,
32 professional relationships; and

33 WHEREAS, law enforcement officers from Georgia's state agencies, with the utmost
34 professionalism, work cooperatively to enhance public safety by enforcing traffic laws and
35 traffic investigations; providing assistance in areas of criminal investigations and forensic
36 laboratory services; responding to natural disasters; enforcing hunting laws and boating
37 safety; and many other areas that support the overall mission of crime prevention and public
38 safety for the citizens of Georgia; and

39 WHEREAS, in Georgia's history, we have lost 672 officers in the line of duty, and just
40 within the past year, we lost six of those officers; the Georgia Public Safety Memorial Wall
41 was dedicated to honor these brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while
42 protecting life and property in the proud tradition of the public safety services; and

43 WHEREAS, Georgia law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every day as they
44 serve with honor, courage, dignity, and concern for their fellow citizens.

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
46 recognize March 18, 2015, as Law Enforcement Appreciation Day at the capitol and
47 commend law enforcement officers in Georgia for protecting our communities and for
48 putting their lives on the line every day.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
50 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Georgia law
51 enforcement officers.